

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 018377  
ORIGIN MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 AF-08 ISO-00 DODE-00 ST-01 H-02 /014 R

DRAFTED BY M/CT: RPMYERS:NWH  
APPROVED BY M/CT: AMB. HECK  
AF/E-MR BARRETT(SUBS)  
DOD/ISA-COL NAFTZINGER(DRAFT)  
AF/EX-MR BRYANT

-----271153Z 061541 /10

R 270223Z JAN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

UNCLAS STATE 018377

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HOUSEHOLD GOODS OF AMCIT JAMES J. HARRELL

1. ON DECEMBER 8, 1976 FORMER HOSTAGE OF ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT, JAMES HARRELL, WAS NOTIFIED BY HQ, MAAG, ETHIOPIA THAT HIS HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS (HHE) WERE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION IN ADDIS DURING SEPTEMBER 1976. HARRELL SUBSEQUENTLY FILED CLAIM WITH U.S. ARMY CLAIMS SERVICE FOR \$7,198.47. CLAIM WAS DISAPPROVED BY CLAIMS SERVICE ON JANUARY 4, 1977; NOTIFICATION STATED THAT EVIDENCE ON RECORD ESTABLISHED THAT HARRELL FAILED TO PAY CUSTOMS CHARGES AND OTHER ENTRY FEES TO ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH CAUSED SALE OF HIS PROPERTY. CLAIMS SERVICE NOTED FURTHER THAT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR RETIRED MILITARY MEMBER WHO MAKES HIS HOME OF SELECTION IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY IS A PERSONAL MATTER BETWEEN HIM AND THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT; THEREFORE LOSS OF PROPERTY DID NOT  
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FALL UNDER PROVISIONS OF 1964 MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES' CLAIMS ACT (31 U.S.C. 240-243).

2. MR. HARRELL HAS CONTACTED DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR ASSISTANCE. IN TRYING TO RECONSTRUCT RECORD OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY U.S. MISSION RELATIVE TO DISPOSITION OF HARREL'S HHE, LAST MESSAGE WE HAVE IN OUR RECORDS IS DEPARTMENT OF

ARMY CABLE, DATED 302052Z JULY 1975, WHICH RECOMMENDED THAT CMAAG ADDIS ASK GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER AT AMEMBASSY ADDIS TO INTERCEDE WITH EPMG ON BEHALF OF HARRELL CONCERNING RELEASE OF HIS HHE. IN ORDER TO COMPLETE OUR RECORDS, WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE RECEIVING A RUNDOWN ON WHAT STEPS EMBASSY AND/OR MAAG TOOK DURING PERIOD JULY 75-AUGUST 76 ON HARRELL'S BEHALF VIS-A-VIS HIS HHE.

3. (FYI: HARRELL ALLEGES THAT HE WAS NOT COUNSELED PRIOR TO MAKING HIS SHIPMENT THAT HE WOULD BE HELD PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF ALL CUSTOMS CHARGES AND OTHER ENTRY FEES. HE STATES THAT NOW THAT HIS CLAIM HAS BEEN REJECTED, HE INTENDS TO SEEK INTERVENTION OF HIS CONGRESSMAN, REP. REUSS (D-WIS.). END FYI)

4. PROMPT RESPONSE TO THIS MESSAGE WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.  
VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HOUSEHOLD GOODS OF AMCIT JAMES J. HARRELL  
**TAGS:** PINS, CASC, US, ET, (HARRELL, JAMES J)  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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